

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25-003

North East and North Cumbria ICB  
Pemberton House  
Colima Avenue  
Sunderland Enterprise Park  
Sunderland  
SR5 3XB

Tel: 0191 512 8484  
E-mail: [nencicb.foi@nhs.net](mailto:nencicb.foi@nhs.net)

By Email

22 April 2025

Dear Applicant

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)**

Thank you for your request received on 31 March 2025 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (the ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley.

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

**Your Request**

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to palliative and end-of-life care services commissioned or provided within your Integrated Care Board (ICB) area.

I would be grateful if you could supply the following information for each financial year from 2010/11 to 2024/25 (to date), in so far as it relates to services provided within your ICB region. Where data for earlier years is not held, I would appreciate any direction towards relevant predecessor organisations (e.g. Clinical Commissioning Groups or Primary Care Trusts), or any reports or summaries indicating how provision has changed over time.

1. Palliative Care Workforce within Your ICB Region

Please provide, for your ICB area:

- The number of Consultant Palliative Medicine doctors (headcount and full-time equivalent), either directly employed or commissioned.
- The number of District Nurses providing palliative or end-of-life care (headcount and FTE), whether directly employed or commissioned.

If available, please also indicate:

- Whether the nursing staff are designated as generalist or specialist in palliative care;

- The employing or contracting body (e.g. NHS trust, community provider, or voluntary sector organisation).

2. Hospice Provision and Funding within Your ICB Region

For each hospice provider located in your ICB area and funded or commissioned during the relevant period, please provide:

- The number of inpatient hospice beds (or equivalent bed capacity).
- The total annual funding provided to each hospice.
- The nature of the funding arrangement (e.g. block contract, grant, or other).

3. Service Notifications Since April 2024

Since 1 April 2024, have any hospice or palliative care providers operating within your ICB region formally notified the ICB of:

- Reductions in service provision.
- Inpatient bed closures.
- Staffing reductions or redundancies.
- Changes to community-based palliative care provision.

If so, please provide details, including dates, the nature of the changes, and any reasons provided.

4. Additional Information

- Has hospice funding for 2024/25 been increased, reduced, or maintained at the same level as in previous years? Please provide details.
- Has your ICB undertaken or commissioned any review, mapping exercise, or needs assessment of palliative and end-of-life care services within your region in the past five years? If so, I would be grateful to receive a copy or summary of any findings.

If responding to this request in full would exceed the cost limit, please prioritise data from the most recent five financial years (2020/21 to 2024/25) and kindly advise how I might further refine the request to fall within the statutory limits.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any clarification or any additional information.

## **Our Response**

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested. NENC ICB did not come into being until July 2022, therefore the ICB does not hold complete data prior to this point.

In response to question 1, we can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested. However, we have determined that the information is held by the acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI email addresses for those foundation trusts to make your request.

<b>NENC Acute Hospital FTs</b>	<b>Email</b>
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Gateshead Health NHS FT	ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	foi@nth.nhs.uk
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	foi@stees.nhs.uk
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net

Questions 2, 3 and 4 have been answered by area/hospice provider below.

#### St Teresa's – Darlington (Tees Valley and Durham Place)

1. Please refer to the ICB response above.
2. Information held for St Teresa's – Darlington (Tees Valley and Durham Place):
  - Inpatient hospice beds: 4 beds commissioned for Tees Valley and 2 beds commissioned for Durham
  - Funding is provided for each hospice:

Year	Value
2021-2022	£1,246,745
2022-2023	£1,373,005
2023-2024	£1,373,005
2024-2025	£1,089,738 * Rapid Response Contract value removed due to competitive procurement process

- Nature of the funding arrangement is block contract.
3. No service notifications served since April 2024.
  4. Hospice services received a pay award for 24/25 in line with the NENC ICB Agenda for Change (AfC) pay award for AfC and hospices. NENC ICB is currently reviewing its PEoL Strategy and engaging with Providers.

#### Zoe's Place Tees Valley Place

1. Please refer to the ICB response above.
2. Hospice Provision and Funding:
  - Inpatient hospice beds: NENC ICB does not hold information on inpatient hospice beds as the hospice doesn't report on beds.
  - Funding is provided via NHSE as part of a CYP grant. In 2024/25, the value was £318,000
3. There have been no service notifications since April 2024.
4. A CYP grant was made available in 2024/25, nothing was available prior to this. The ICB holds no evidence of a CYP review being undertaken

#### North Cumbria and Northumberland Hospices

1. Please refer to the ICB response above.
2. Hospice provision and funding is detailed below:

*North Cumbria hospices provision:*

Eden Valley Hospice –10 adult inpatient beds of which 8 are staffed. 5 inpatient beds in Jigsaw children's hospice.

Hospice at Home Carlisle and North Lakeland – no inpatient beds

Hospice at Home West Cumbria – no inpatient beds

*Northumberland hospices provision:*

Hospice Care North Northumberland – no inpatient beds

Tynedale Hospice at Home – no inpatient beds

Marie Curie hospice, Northumberland – no inpatient beds within Northumberland

*North Cumbria hospices funding (no information transferred over prior to 2023/24):*

Eden Valley Hospice:

2023/24 total contribution to cost – £692,488.04

2024/25 total contribution to cost – £719,494.97

Hospice at Home Carlisle and North Lakeland:

2023/24 total contribution to cost – £383,320.26

2024/25 total contribution to cost – £398,270.18

Hospice at Home West Cumbria:

2023/24 total contribution to cost – £382,002.80

2024/25 total contribution to cost – £396,900.82

*Northumberland hospices funding:*

No information held prior to 2024/25 (prior to this all these Northumberland grant agreements were SLAs between Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT and the hospice services).

Hospice Care North Northumberland – 2024/25 total contribution to cost – £46,000.71

Tynedale Hospice at Home – 2024/25 total contribution to cost – £74,521.03

Marie Curie Northumberland – 2024/25 total contribution to cost – £230,330.71

All are funded via grant agreements for 2024/25. Prior to 2024/25 the Northumberland hospices had SLA agreements in place with Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT.

3. There have been no service notifications since April 2024.
4. Hospice services received a pay award for 2024/25 in line with the NENC ICB AfC pay award for AfC and hospices (3.9% net of any uplift already applied. Figures above reflect this award for 2024/25).

North of Tyne Hospices

1. Please refer to the ICB response above.
2. There are no bed numbers specified or equivalent bed capacity ICB don't commission set beds. Annual funding information is shown in the table below. Contracts are a mix of grants, block contracts and activity-based contracts.

Provider	2023/24	2024/25
St Oswald's	£4,045,284	£4,186,316.01
Marie Curie	£3,660,031	£3,134,239

3. Notice was given on the Marie Curie Planned nursing and rapid response service in County Durham in 2024/25. This service was provided for 7 months of the year.
4. All Marie Curie and St Oswald's contracts have increased in 2024/25 by 0.6% (uplift) and 3.3% (Agenda for change pay award).

### Teesside and Durham Hospices

1. Please refer to the ICB response above.
2. Hospice provision and funding:

Hospice name	Inpatient beds commissioned	Funding and basis
Alice House (Hartlepool Hospice)	<b>2021/22:</b> 8 beds  <b>2022/23:</b> 8 beds  <b>2023/24:</b> 8 beds plus 2 additional for 6 months  <b>2024/25:</b> 8 beds plus 2 additional for 6 months	<b>2021/22:</b> £241,557 County Durham  <b>2022/23:</b> £250,945 County Durham  <b>2023/24:</b> £258,813 County Durham, £740,374 Tees Valley  <b>2024/25:</b> £260,366 County Durham, £991,869 Tees Valley
Teesside Hospice	<b>2021/22:</b> Access to 10 beds <b>2022/23:</b> Access to 10 beds <b>2023/24:</b> Access to 10 beds <b>2024/2025:</b> Access to 10 beds	<b>2021/22:</b> £602,531 <b>2022/23:</b> £627,201 <b>2023/24:</b> £811,893 <b>2024/25:</b> £807,542
Butterwick House	<b>2021/22:</b> Access to 10 beds  <b>2022/23:</b> Access to 10 beds  <b>2023/24:</b> Access to 10 beds  <b>2024/25:</b> Access to 10 beds	<b>2021/22:</b> £494,532 County Durham, £477, 926 Tees Valley  <b>2022/23:</b> £513,752 County Durham, Nil from Tees Valley due to services being suspended  <b>2023/24:</b> £529,860 County Durham, £5219,860 Tees Valley (both the same value on contract)  <b>2024/25:</b> £533,039 County Durham, £493,585 Tees Valley
Willowburn	<b>2021/22:</b> 4 beds (plus an additional 2 which can be utilised on a spot purchase basis)  <b>2022/23:</b> 4 beds (plus an additional 2 which can be utilised on a spot purchase basis)	<b>2021/22:</b> £520,381  <b>2022/23:</b> £550,949

	<b>2023/24:</b> 4 beds (plus an additional 2 which can be utilised on a spot purchase basis)  <b>2024/25:</b> 4 beds (plus an additional 2 which can be utilised on a spot purchase basis)	<b>2023/24:</b> £562,794  <b>2024/25:</b> £606,558
St Cuthberts	<b>2021/22:</b> 10 inpatient beds <b>2022/23:</b> 10 inpatient beds <b>2023/24:</b> 10 inpatient beds <b>2024/25:</b> 10 inpatient beds	<b>2021/22:</b> £1,151,101 <b>2022/23:</b> £1,198,700 <b>2023/24:</b> £1,239,801 <b>2024/25:</b> £1,247,240

### 3. Service notification information:

Provider	Response
Alice House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service provision reduction: No, last beds closed in May 2023 – 6 Continuing Healthcare funded beds on the Long-Term Care Unit.</li> <li>Inpatient bed closures: no, last closure the Long-Term Care Unit in May 2023.</li> <li>No staffing reductions or redundancies. Last redundancies in May 2023 (18 staff) following the closure of the Long-Term Care Unit.</li> <li>No changes to community-based palliative care provision.</li> </ul>
Teesside Hospice	The answer is no to each of the questions.
Butterwick Hospice	The answer is no to each of the questions.
Willowburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No reductions in service provision.</li> <li>No inpatient bed closures.</li> <li>3 staff redundancies in retail (planned shop closure)</li> <li>No changes to community-based palliative care provision</li> </ul>
St Cuthberts	We have reduced our staffing (made 17 staff redundant) and as a result reduced our Day Services and Adult Bereavement Service provision.

### 4. No additional information for Tees Valley and County Durham hospices.

In accordance with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the ICB's complaints procedure.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours faithfully

*Information Governance Support Officer*

**Information Governance Support Officer  
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board**